

About the Performers

Donna Lee is the Director/Producer of the Follies. This show is the outgrowth of Donna Lee's love of the senior community. With the Amherst Senior Center facing budget cutbacks and increased financial burdens, Donna Lee, Nancy Pagano and the Friends of the Amherst Senior Center organized this performance to raise money and community awareness. Donna Lee is known throughout the Pioneer Valley for her work in the group tours market. An internationally recognized recording artist, Donna Lee performs in tribute shows to Fleetwood Mac and Patsy Cline as well as producing and recording her original music.

Stephen Clapp, violinist, Dean Emeritus of the Julliard School, has maintained a performing and teaching career for decades while serving as an administrator at Julliard, Oberlin and Aspen. Winner of the Naumburg First Chamber Music Award and the Cleveland Society for Strings' Josef Gingold Prize, Dr. Clapp has performed as soloist and chamber musician internationally. He was concertmaster of the Aspen Chamber Symphony and the Austin and Nashville Symphonies. He has performed with Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zuckerman, Jacqueline duPre and Yo-Yo Ma.

Nadine Shank, pianist, made her concert debut at the age of 15 with the World Youth Orchestra of Interlochen as winner of their prestigious concerto competition. She was an award winner in the MTNA, Mason and Hamlin, and National Federation of Music Clubs competitions. Ms. Shank earned degrees at the Oberlin Conservatory, receiving the Rudolph Serkin Piano Award and the Pi Kappa Lambda Piano Prize, and at Indiana University (Bloomington) where she performed with the University Philharmonic as winner of their Concerto Competition. Ms. Shank is Professor of Music and Director of Piano and Collaborative Piano Programs at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Bill Shontz, an internationally acclaimed musician, has been writing, recording, performing, producing and teaching most of his life. He has performed in venues from the White House to Fenway Park. As member of the popular duo, Rosenshontz, Bill has become a favorite of generations and an innovator of children's music. Bill performs a wide range of music, joyfully embracing classical, jazz and popular styles.

Michelle Brooks-Thompson is a trained gospel, classical singer and musician. She has been singing and playing piano since she was a child. In 2006, she received her B.A. in music from Mt. Holyoke College with a concentration in vocal performance and piano. Michelle was winner of the 2010 "Valley Idol" contest, winner of the Karaoke World Championship North East Regional Competition June 2010 and 2nd place winner of the USA Karaoke World Championship National Competition in Houston, Texas Aug 2010. She will be appearing in the Americas Karaoke Challenge on ABC this summer. Michelle also won the "Sing Your Way to Fenway" contest for 2011 and sang the National Anthem at the Red Sox-Yankees game.

Elaine Fligman grew up in Brooklyn and went to Brooklyn College where she joined the Gilbert and Sullivan Society and sang many leading roles. Elaine moved to Amherst in 1987 and became very active in the "Young at Heart Chorus" as lead and chorus member. She performed with them all over Europe and in Australia and Hawaii.

Kyle Ray is a junior at South Hadley High School and has been singing his entire life. He began working with Donna Lee as her vocal student at the age of 13. One year later he recorded and released his first self-titled CD. His style ranges from Chuck Berry to Josh Groban, Jason Mraz to Rodney Atkins. He recently began working on original material.

Paisley Rowland is a West Springfield High School graduate. She recently recorded her first album "Sincerely Paisley". Her original music spins tales of her life. Paisley plays a wide variety of songs and genres. Her repertoire includes popular hits and classics. She also plays rhythm guitar. Paisley's rich and passionate vocals will leave you wanting more.

Bluestockings is an all women's a capella group at Amherst College. The group's original, unique, soulful sound has developed since its founding in 1989.

Margaret Patel from Belchertown began studying piano at the age of 6. Now at thirteen years of age, Margaret has developed a love for jazz. She plays flute in the school concert band and piano in the school jazz band. Margaret also sings and plays flute with the church choir. She loves reading and playing music with friends and family.

Abigail Patel resides in Belchertown. At eleven years of age she is the youngest performer in our show. She began playing guitar at five years old and at the tender age of six began studying voice. Abigail has already performed at several venues throughout the region and continues to grow musically.